



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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Governor, VA UnderSecretary Dedicate Kentucky's Third State Veterans Cemetery

On a gorgeous late-summer day in August, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and USDVA UnderSecretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk dedicated the Commonwealth's third state veterans cemetery in Williamstown.

"This piece of earth will be the final resting place for those who risked and in some cases, gave their lives," Beshear said. "We must not forget that men and women face danger on the other side of the world. Some of us have let the troops slip from our consciousness and that is a mistake."

"This cemetery is the result of an extraordinary partnership," said Tuerk, who also helped dedicate Kentucky's second state veterans cemetery outside Fort Knox last year, "a mutual commitment between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Kentucky which has always cared so deeply for its veterans."

"May we never forget their sacrifices or today's heroes," Tuerk said.

To the crowd of more than 500 veterans and family members, KDVA Commissioner Leslie E. Beavers, BG USA (Ret.) said: "Every veteran is a special guest. This is your facility. We want to thank you. Our community, state and country should respect you."

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North is built on 99 acres off of I-75 in Central Kentucky, about halfway between Lexington and Cincinnati. Construction on the \$8.2 million facility began in March 2007.

It includes a 3,600-square-foot administration building, a 4,400-square-foot maintenance building with service area, committal facility and a columbarium section. It also has appropriate parking, a road network, walking path and landscaping commensurate with the dignity and honor of a state veterans cemetery.

Phase One construction provides capacity for interring 5,746 veterans and dependents, including 2,726 standard caskets, 500 double-depth crypts, 1,020 columbarium niches and space for 500 in-ground cremains.

The Grant County Industrial Development Authority donated the land for the cemetery. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse the state for construction, and the state will pay the operating costs.

KVCN is Kentucky's third State Veterans Cemetery. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville has interred more than 900 veterans since opening in 2004, and Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff has interred more than 500 veterans since opening in 2007.

KDVA plans two more state veterans cemeteries in the eastern half of the state. It has purchased land in Greenup County outside Ashland for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Northeast, and is seeking a suitable site in Leslie County, outside Hazard, for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Southeast.

Kentucky's veterans cemeteries are open to all eligible veterans, regardless of state residency. KVCN is accessible to veterans and families of southeastern Illinois and southwestern Ohio as well as those in northern Kentucky.